

# space city!

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## Big Stink!

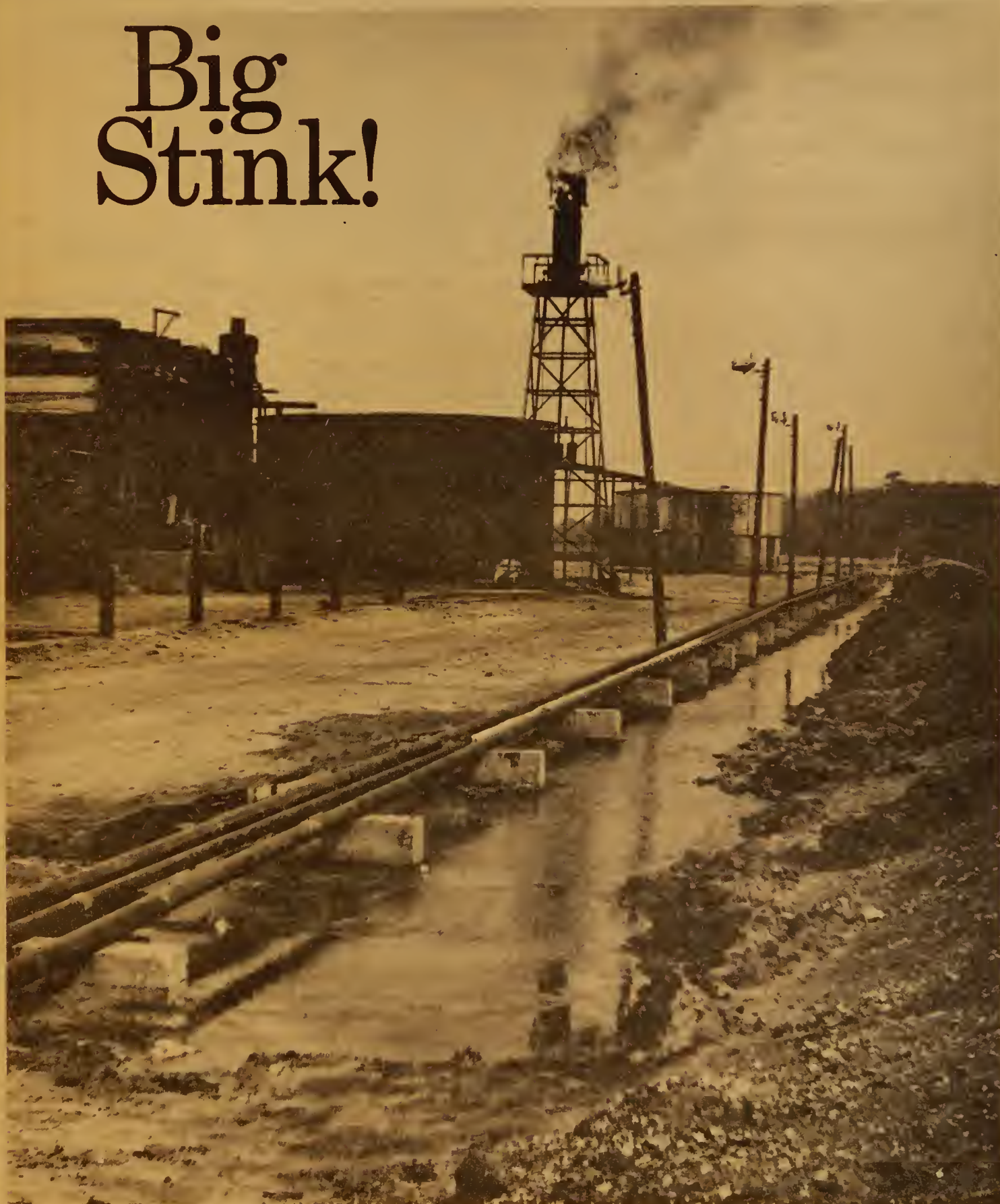


Photo by Jerry Sabesta.

by Victoria Smith

There's a chemical company called Phoenix out the Gulf Freeway on Choate Rd. near Friendswood. It's a moderate-sized operation, but residents of nearby Sagemont subdevelopment have found that Phoenix can let off with some pretty big, bad odors.

Cont. on PAGE 5



## Houston Activists On Trial

Johnny Coward and Bartee Haile go to trial Monday, May 17, on charges of assault to murder and assault to murder a police officer.

The charges stem from the Dowling St. incident last July, when Criminal Intelligence Division officers shot and killed People's Party II Chairman Carl Hampton.

There will be a support rally for the two men at 3 p.m., Sunday, May 16, at Hermann Park. Supporters will demonstrate at 8 a.m. in front of the Family Law Center, 1115 Congress, where the trial is to take place.

The Committee to Defend and Support Coward and Haile said in a news release that, "We definitely hope for a large turn-out, especially at Hermann Park Sunday. The future of not only Bartee and Johnny, but the future of everyone left-of-center in Houston is at stake. This trial is a political trial; the judge and jury's decision will be a political decision."

"Only mass visible public support can make all of Houston, even the moderate or apolitical, aware of the trial and this public awareness will bring pressure on the power structure."

The release said that if the local power structure and the courts can convict these two men without an outcry from progressive people in Houston, the whole Houston movement can be easily wiped out. "If we don't resist today," the statement said, "we'll deserve what we get tomorrow."

The Sunday rally will offer three bands, refreshments and speakers from different parts of the Southwest.

"If it rains, come anyway," the committee said. "We'll build a pig pen in the mud."

## Another Lee Otis Case?

Houston police have hauled People's Party II Chairman James Aaron off to jail twice in one week, on charges that would appear to anyone but the most obtuse as instances of petty harassment.

Aaron was picked up around 9 p.m. last Friday, May 7, as he was walking to the Party headquarters. He said he was stopped by two officers who asked his name. He answered, "James," and asked if he were under arrest. Aaron said there was no answer, so he started walking away. He said he was then arrested. The charge: abusive language. The arresting officers claim he cursed after they asked his name.

Less than a week before, on Saturday, May 1, Aaron was arrested on charges of "servicing an automobile on a public thoroughfare."

The night supervisor of the radio patrol said he had never heard of anyone's being arrested under this obscure ordinance. According to the Forward Times, a small number of high-ranking police officers criticized this arrest as "harassment" and as giving "these kids a perfect reason not to have any respect for the law."



Some 100 people attended the People's Court Saturday, May 8 under a freeway overpass near Kelly Courts. A variety of witnesses, black, brown and white, testified about their first-hand experiences with police harassment and brutality. There were some difficulties, like the public address system going out. But the People's Court, set up to judge police and local officials in mock trial, found police guilty of murder of Carl Hampton and Bobby Joe Conner, acts of harassment and brutality against blacks, browns, poor people and young, long-haired whites and just ordinary citizens who, though apolitical, said they have experienced unprovoked harassment from police.

Photo by Sue Mitbun.

## A SPACE CITY VIEWPOINT

Two Houston men, two brothers, go on trial Monday, May 17, on felony charges that could possible send them to prison for life.

Bartee Haile and Johnny Coward have been living in Houston for a long time. They have dedicated their lives to the building of a more equitable, humane society. They are part of that often discouraging, often dangerous revolutionary struggle that extends world-wide and that demands freedom for the powerless, the miserable, the impoverished.

Coward and Haile are charged with assault to murder and assault to murder a police officer. The first charge, on conviction, carries a maximum sentence of life, the second, a maximum sentence of life plus 25 years.

Haile and Coward were on Dowling St. last July 26 when police killed People's Party II Chairman Carl Hampton. Haile and Coward were both injured in that incident.

Space City! did a careful investigation of the events on Dowling St., and has believed all along that the two men are innocent of the charges. And given the repressive, inequitable system of criminal justice in America, the system that in Texas commits outrage after outrage against such political prisoners as Lee Otis Johnson, Coward and Haile are indeed innocent. We believe that the men are being tried not for a criminal act, but for their political beliefs and activities.

This trial is important to all progressive people in Houston. If Coward and Haile go to prison, what is to prevent the local powers from trundling any of us off to the pokey for whatever offense they decide to pin on us?

Think about it. You may not be black or brown, you may not be extremely militant or espouse Marxist-Leninist philosophies. But maybe you participate in peace activities, smoke dope and/or own a gun. Put two and two together. Don't come up with simple paranoia, but a well-reasoned concern about your continued existence in a city as repressive as Houston.

Space City! is asking its readers to support Haile and Coward during this trial. Go to the rallies called by the Committee to Defend and Support Coward and Haile, particularly the one this Sunday at 3 p.m. in Hermann Park. Go to the trial. (It's in the Family Law Center, 1115 Congress.) Write letters to the local daily newspapers. Let the public know that these men must have a fair trial. Let the local officials know that you support Coward and Haile.

Remember, blind justice may be weighing your future in the balance.

—Space City! Collective

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A member of the Party said, "They are trying to make another Lee Otis Johnson out of Aaron. They want to get a lot of arrests so when they make their move, they can say, 'Look at all these arrests! This guy was a bad actor.'"

"By doing it this way, they feel they're going to have that segment of the people who will say that if he's been arrested that many times, he must have been doing something wrong."

"What for? For wanting to help liberate oppressed people? But I believe people can see through that, man."

Aaron was released on bond on both charges shortly after the arrests.

## Five Years For Grass

TAMPA, Fla. (LNS) - Connie Tucker, Florida State chairwoman of the Junta of Militant Organizations (JOMO), a militant black group with chapters around the South, has been sentenced to five years in prison on a charge of possession of marijuana.

Two white people charged with possession of marijuana were placed on probation in the same courtroom. Even the conservative Tampa Times made a comment on this.

Connie was first arrested in February, 1970, on a charge of shoplifting in a large department store. Although she was able to produce a sales ticket for the merchandise she had purchased at the store, and even though the store detective testified during the hearing that she was innocent, the judge placed her on probation for 90 days.

It was shortly after the shoplifting arrest that the marijuana arrest occurred. Connie and a friend had been to visit an attorney to discuss police harassment. A few minutes after their return to their house, five carloads of police and a paddy wagon arrived. The house was then searched and Connie and two other persons were busted.

When the case finally came to trial in October, 1970, police were unable to produce any evidence except two papers in which they claimed marijuana had been smoked; they said all the actual marijuana they found had been "used up in tests."

JOMO has a strict no-drug policy for all its members.

The October trial ended in a hung jury, and the prosecution set a new trial for February, 1971. That trial, at which Connie was convicted, took place as 20 armed deputies lined the courtroom and searched every black person who came in and all white they considered "radical."

Meantime, in June of 1970, Connie had been arrested on a charge of violating the probation on the shoplifting charge, and in November she was arrested while traveling to Daytona Beach to report on the black rebellion there for JOMO's publication, The Burning Spear. The car she was riding in was stopped and she and other passengers charged with possession of concealed weapons. A statewide effort to raise \$10,000 bail freed her a few days later, but that charge is still pending.

JOMO is trying to raise money to appeal the conviction. It fears for Connie's life in the Lowell prison. Send contributions to the National Committee to Free Connie Tucker, P.O. Box 12792, St. Petersburg, Fla. or call 813-896-2036.





Women's March — May 2

LNS photo.

# May Day

WASHINGTON, D.C. (LNS) — It all began in a peaceful encampment at West Potomac Park overlooked by the glimmering facade of the Lincoln Memorial and the blinking red lights in the tapered tip of the Washington Monument. Algonquin Peace City, as Mayday's organizers called it, looked about as casual as any rock festival with 50,000 people, and the free food was actually quite good.

There was some trouble — six women were raped and more were threatened, campsites were ripped off and there were a lot of bad trips from acid cut with strychnine. Police periodically threatened to barge into the bad trip tent to freak out the patients and bust the doctors. Women and gay people were angry at how little progress rock musicians had made past the imagery of straight male domination. But mostly, Algonquin Peace City was good-natured and alive, a place to meet your friends.

Perhaps 20,000 festival-goers were getting ready to tie up Washington in the next few days and take a serious crack at shutting down the government in protest of the war — the most ambitious attempt at massive non-violent civil disobedience in U.S. history.

U.S. government officials were not prepared to lie back and wait. They called 10,000 troops into Washington. Without provocation, they withdrew the permit for the encampment at West Potomac Park early Sunday morning and abruptly ended the dialogue between the half of the crowd that knew it would stay for the disruptions and the half that hadn't made up its mind. They busted 90 people and scattered the rest of us to housing all over D.C.

Monday morning came early. We converged on traffic circles, bridges and key intersections all over the city. People from each state worked together, massing and dispersing in hit-and-run style to stop the rush hour traffic from getting downtown. Road barricades would be deposited in the street and a few minutes later, plainclothes cops, referred to as "irate commuters" in some of the TV footage aired that night, would cart them off to the side.

The biggest problem at some circles seemed to be that rush hour traffic never quite materialized. Anticipating the traffic snarls and armed with an unimpeachable excuse, many people never bothered to go to work Monday morning, and in some places there wasn't enough traffic to jam.

Georgetown, the oldest corner of Washington and the location of Georgetown University, where many people crashed after the breakup of the festival, saw some of the best-blocked traffic in the city. Cars were backed up a dozen blocks, partially on account of the purposely wayward pedestrians and partially because many drivers "stalled" and then "couldn't get their cars started again." Several lanes were blocked at the Francis Scott Key Bridge which crosses the Potomac near Georgetown when dozens of protestors pushed an abandoned garbage truck over the edge of an embankment overlooking one of the access roads to the bridge.

At Dupont Circle, a popular site for demonstrations, hit-and-run tactics stopped traffic sporadically as several thousand protestors prowled in the back streets and emerged in concentrations. Some of the traffic was happy to stop. One Dupont Circle demonstrator held back a huge U.S. mail truck with a single finger while reaching his head around the side to exchange small talk with the drivers inside.

M Street, a main downtown thoroughfare, was blocked for a long time by an overturned tractor-trailer truck. It stopped traffic in both directions. And around George Washington University nearby the White House, demonstrators, joined on the spot by some students, danced in the streets, lifting the hood of one car after another.

It would have been a very playful day except for the police. They were out there and swinging. At some targets, like the bridges over the Potomac, large malls and no buildings made it easy for police to corral most of us between barages of gas and waiting vans. In Georgetown, round after round of tear gas eventually forced people back to the university campus where they were surrounded by cops and gas for hours.

A march by the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and the People's Coalition for Peace and Justice fled from the grounds of the Washington Monument before it was half-way assembled. It was chiefly at a few of the traffic circles inside the city where demonstrators managed to stay in action for hours and not get busted.

Monday morning's arrest toll reached over 7,000 people. It was the largest number on any single day or in any single event in American history. To accomplish the arrests, the police virtually abandoned a streamlined field procedure

developed by a blue-ribbon commission after black Washington blew up three years ago. Few of the charges could stand up in court, since city prosecutors have little idea where, when, or how thousands of the protestors committed their alleged offenses. But the police were not in the mood to conform with established procedures.

Medics were the first to get busted, and tear gas cannisters were tossed into more than one first aid truck. Police drove motorscooters into people's legs, maced them in the eyes, beat them on their skulls and one even pulled a gun and threatened to shoot when a demonstrator grabbed a nightstick from a cop motorscooting past him on the sidewalk. There were very few incidents in which people fought back.

Busloads of prisoners were taken to RFK Stadium where they nearly knocked down the fence of a hastily erected pen in the middle of the stadium's practice field. Later, they were moved to the D.C. Coliseum and nearly every jail in the city was strained beyond its capacity.

The strain would have been greater except that some busloads managed mass escapes en route to the lock-up. One group started a fire in the middle of the bus and forced the police to release them. Demonstrators poured out of several other buses after kicking out the windows in standard emergency fashion. The faces of police escorting the busloads that escaped appeared caught somewhere between disbelief and infant rage, but the demonstrators' superior numbers made the escorts powerless.

When the dust settled for the day, it was clear that Washington had not been able to function as scheduled. Aside from the number of laws the police had felt compelled to break, downtown Federal Washington really had half-closed its shop.

Naturally, the government will never release accurate figures of how many employees never showed up on Monday and some TV networks are content to report official estimates of the disruption caused by protestors. But a number of businessmen weren't clued in as to what they were supposed to tell reporters.

A spokesman for the Metropolitan Washington Board of Trade admitted that city stores suffered "a substantial decrease in business."

Frank H. Rich, president of Rich's Shoes, a chain of stores in greater Washington, said that the demonstrations had dealt a "terrific economic blow to the entire city." At some of his stores, sales were off 50 per cent. Owners of downtown parking lots were perhaps the glumest as many choice lots lay empty.

Garfinkel's, a large downtown department store, reported Monday sales off at least 40 per cent. And Mel Krupin of Duke Zeibert's, a restaurant at L Street and Connecticut Avenue, said that business was off about 50 per cent on Monday at both the tables and the bar. Naturally, some strategically located snack-bars reported "better than normal" business.

There were even some pedestrians in the downtown streets who admitted they hadn't gone to work in the morning.

Tuesday morning, we no longer had the numbers to attempt a massive decentralized disruption of Washington. Some returned to the targets they had tied up the day before, better prepared. But for the most part Tuesday morning, every long-haired man and blue-jeaned woman in the city had to be careful not to find themselves in a group of more than two or three people. The police drag-net, concentrated on areas from which many demonstrators escaped the day before, pulled in hundreds of people for simply walking down the street and running when chased.

It was clear to everyone that because Algonquin Peace City had been demolished Sunday morning, there had been no place to gather and regroup after Monday's actions. Word spread quickly of a reunion at Franklin Square, at the corner of 14th Street and K, sometime after 11. As we approached from all directions, we got word from quiet voices that we were all to converge at the Franklin Square Park exactly at noon. We did. Over 5,000 of us in all, with lunch hour spectators several deep lining the sidewalks across from the park. The sun was out, the weather was beautiful, and the spectators looked very friendly.

After a brief rally we began a 14-block march to the Justice Department — chief architect of the mass-arrest tactics used against us — to demand the release of all political prisoners. It was a very careful march. We walked down the sidewalk, five abreast and literally a mile long, stopped for traffic signals and greeted passersby with songs, chants and often a few words. We felt relaxed, and the number of smiles we got from non-demonstrating pedestrians confirmed our sense that the people of Washington had not seen the disruptions as an attack on them.

The arrests began at 2:45 p.m. after a series of speeches reverberated through the 100 yard-long canyon of 10th Street, between Constitution and Pennsylvania Avenues. John Mitchell and a number of FBI agents scoured the crowd from a balcony above and listened to a speech by John Froines whom they had not yet captured despite a conspiracy indictment against him for participation in Mayday organizing. A speaker from SCLC, who had led the demonstration so far, urged the crowd to disperse and spend the rest of the day chatting with Washington residents on the street.

But the police gave little time for escape. Two large concentrations of police massed at the ends of the canyon and began to advance. They were armed with gas masks, but the only gas they dropped was one cannister that an over-anxious cop accidentally knocked off his belt. He set his fellow cops in a near panic as they grabbed for their masks.

Many of the police at the Justice Department removed their badges and nameplates in case they made any mistakes, but the nearly 2,000 protestors trapped between their lines frolicked to a flute, sang songs and took a festive approach to the entire bust. Some of those who escaped did talk to the large crowd of onlookers who gathered nearby and found them by and large friendly. Pedestrians who observed a police scooter suddenly lurch through a crowd and run over both legs of a girl who didn't "disperse" quickly enough were ready to empty their pockets for Mayday's highly effective central bail fund.

By Wednesday, the total number of busts was pushing 10,000. Nonetheless, several thousand Mayday protestors massed on the marble steps outside the House of Representatives to demand that Congress ratify the People's Peace Treaty signed by thousands of Americans and Vietnamese. By late in the afternoon, nearly 1,200 more people were taken off to jail for "unlawful assembly" on the Capitol grounds.

Most of those arrested during Mayday got off for \$10.

But Rennie Davis, John Froines and Abbie Hoffman — all of the Chicago 8 — have already been slapped with conspiracy charges, and more are expected to follow. Whether Mayday tactics will spread to other cities remains to be seen. The consensus of most protestors was that if they get a chance to do it all over again, they'll do it better and they'll bring along more of their friends.



## Non-Bomber Arrested

# Now You Can Sleep Easy

Chalk up another one to coincidence.

The Newsweek article on rightwing terrorism in Houston had been out for about a week when the Houston police announced another show bust. This time it was Paul William Morratto, 24, of League City, who identifies himself as public relations man for the United Klans of America.

(Jimmie Hutto, self-avowed Klansman and well-known local right wing personality, was arrested last in January, 1970, on charges of conspiring to bomb Pacifica radio stations in California. This arrest occurred days before KPFT radio's return to the air was to be telecast nationally by National Educational Television.)

The point is this: the only two arrests that have been made in response to the wave of rightist terrorism in Houston have coincided with major unfavorable national publicity. And, neither, we might add, were busted for commission of any real vigilante act here.

Morratto, in fact, was charged with placing a fake bomb in Pacifica radio's elevator this January. He has been charged with false information concerning the presence of a bomb, a misdemeanor, and setting up a fact situation which caused an emergency vehicle to respond, a felony.

The "bomb" was a bunch of old radio parts wrapped in a piece of curtain. Pacifica staffer Fran Teague received a call Jan. 16 from an unidentified man who told her, "I bought a present for you and left it in the elevator." The cops were called, and

they expertly dismantled the harmless piece of trash. Nothing more was heard until May 4, when police announced Morratto's fingerprints had been matched with ones found on the non-bomb.

Pacifica station manager Larry Lee told Space City!: "Although I don't think the police would say so, it was the work of federal agents in this and previous arrests answering a wave of terror that the mayor of Houston and his police claim they cannot see."

It is believed that both the Criminal Intelligence Division of the Houston Police Department and U.S. Treasury agents were involved in this case.

We asked UKA Grand Dragon Frank Converse what he thinks about the latest arrest. He suggested that the whole thing may have been a practical joke perpetrated by someone interested in aggravating antagonisms between the right and the left.

Alan Salzstein, University of Houston professor who is chairman of the Committee to Defend Democratic Rights in Houston, told the city council May 5:

"I am here this morning to commend the police department for the arrest of a suspect alleged to be connected with one of these incidents. We hope that his is a beginning of a search that will uncover those guilty of all of these acts. We wish to point out, however, that there have been many of these incidents in the past few years. . . . The crime for which this man is accused is a very minor incident in a very long and brutal



Paul Morratto speaking at Rice University April 26. With him is Klan Grand Dragon Frank Converse.  
Photo by Juliette Brown.

history."

Salzstein gave city council a detailed list of more than 20 acts of terrorism against radical or liberal groups that have occurred within the last two years.

So they made another arrest. And

here's our predictable sour grapes. It was on a ridiculous charge, and it appeared to be timed to coincide with more unfavorable national publicity. ("See?" they say. "We're doing something about it.")

Guess we're not impressed.

# KKK/SWP Non-Debate

Frank Converse, Grand Dragon of the Texas United Klans of America, said last week that the left and the right may end up "walking down the same road" on some issues, particularly opposition to the war in Vietnam.

Converse and Debby Leonard, Socialists Workers Party (SWP) candidate for mayor, appeared together on a televised broadcast Tuesday, May 4, on KHOU-TV, channel 11. They may share mutual opposition to the war, (though they seem to be opposed for different reasons) but Converse and Leonard are walking down two separate roads entirely.

Space City! reported last week that Converse had declined Leonard's challenge to engage in public debate. To those of you who were fortunate enough to catch the program (it was listed under a "to be announced" time slot) the 30-minute exchange may have born a strong resemblance to a "debate". When contacted by phone, however, Converse said no, it was not a debate.

He said he was under the impression that Police Chief Herman Short and a professor would also appear. Steve Edwards, who moderated the program, said that Short refused to appear on the same show with Converse and Leonard, and the professor couldn't make it.

This non-debate developed into a rather heated exchange with Converse suggesting that Leonard go to Cuba if she didn't like the American form

of government.

Converse "accused" Leonard of being a socialist, a Marxist and a Trotskyist. Leonard, in her consistently cool, fast-talking style, said essentially, yes, all that and more.

Converse said that the United Klans of America (not to be confused with the Ku Klux Klan) is a "streamlined" Klan primarily interested in educating Americans about the nature of communism (or is it Communism?). Leonard said that her organization was also interested in education, but was dedicated to total change in American society as well. Converse indicated that he liked things pretty much as they are.

So with the battle lines drawn, Leonard launched into a criticism of Houston authorities for their inactivity in halting harassment of leftist and liberal groups.

She said that, after all the national publicity on the "civil war" between the left and right in Houston, "I think the whole country is watching now to see if left and liberal organizations can continue to exist in Houston."

Leonard called this charge "an attempt to sidetrack the investigation" at a time when the left in Houston is growing and gaining support. She asked Converse if he thought that she and others like her and the right to exist in Houston without threats, intimidation and harassment.

Converse, who apparently either

didn't understand the question or didn't want to answer it, told Leonard that if she didn't like the American way of government maybe she should try a country like Cuba.

She noted that the city of Houston can sentence two students from Texas Southern University to 20 years imprisonment for possessing materials to make a bomb (no one ever proved that they were going to make any bombs), but it can't manage a single arrest as far as harassment of leftist groups goes.

(This program was taped before the arrest of Paul Morratto, charged with a misdemeanor and a felony stemming from a phony bomb threat early this year at the KPFT-FM studios. See related news this issue.)

Leonard said the SWP was "concerned about the unequal enforcement of justice and the appearance of either a direct or indirect collusion between the city, the police force and right wing elements."

Converse took this occasion to criticize the article on Houston's "civil war" that appeared in the May 3 issue of Newsweek. The article strongly condemned the apparent do-nothing attitude of the Houston police and the city government in handling incidents of harassment.

Converse said he didn't think the article was fair, and that he thought the writer "laid up in his hotel room and dreamed up most of it." (Actually, Hugh Aynesworth, the writer,

lives and works in Houston for the Newsweek bureau here.)

On the subject of the war in Vietnam, Converse said that he doesn't "believe in the war . . . no one thinks it's fair." He said the government is spending "hundreds of millions of dollars" in Vietnam and the United States is not "really fighting a war." His position, he said, was that either the United States should get out or if the government is going to fight, it should wage an all-out war.

Edwards interjected the idea that perhaps the right and left could get together on this issue. Converse said he thought so, but Leonard disagreed. She said that the left believes the United States had no business being in Vietnam in the first place and advocates total immediate withdrawal of troops.

Leonard, whose clipped Northern diction permits her a remarkable number of words per minute, kept bringing the discussion back to Houston. ("That's what we're talking about, right?") And once again, she found herself having to argue as to who is really executing all those bombings and shootings, the left or the right.

Edwards asked Converse if he thought the left might be bombing its own facilities, just for the publicity.

"Well, sir, it certainly is possible," he replied. "In fact, it is possible . . . She's been here six months," he said, referring to Leonard, and "there's been a lot of bombings since she came to this town."



Cont. from 1

Sally Cowan, representing the Sagemont Citizens, told County Commissioners Court last week that the foul odors the company emits are "really getting unbearable."

"There's some kind of smell every day," she said, adding that the problem seems to be as bad or worse at night when people are trying to sleep. She said residents wake up at night and are forced to close their windows to keep out the smell.

Mrs. Cowan asked the court to stop granting Phoenix extended time to clean up its pollution problems.

On April 12, the commissioners granted Phoenix a 90-day period of grace to install new equipment to abate its air and water pollution. Dr. Walter Quebedeaux, county pollution control director, and a man who has been described as "the most frustrated man in Harris County," had told the court he had received an extraordinary number of citizens' complaints that had been traced to the Phoenix plant.

Charging that Phoenix Chemical was violating both the Texas Clean Air Act and the Texas Water Quality Act, Quebedeaux recommended that the court file suit against the company. But just as one of the commissioners was about to make a motion, Thomas J. Reinhart, president of Phoenix Chemical, rose to the speakers stand and presented an eloquent plea in impressive, technical language.

Reinhart claimed that Phoenix was taking major steps to clean up its air and that the company was not in violation of the water regulations. He asked for 90 days, and got it, in a unanimous decision from the court.

But last week, both Mrs. Cowan and Quebedeaux testified that Phoenix's air pollution problem was not improving. Quebedeaux said it is getting worse. While in March Phoenix was merely *tied* for first place with Shell for the position of "polluter of the month," the April report from the Pollution Control Department shows that more complaints were leveled against Phoenix than any other company.

Mrs. Cowan, establishing a firm "no-funny-business" presence, asked the court why the county should pay Quebedeaux's salary if it doesn't let him do his job.

She cited several inconveniences the foul odors were causing Sagemont residents, claiming that they can't even have outdoor barbecues because the smell is so bad.

Commissioner Bill Elliot, the conservative-leaning gentleman from District 3, asked Quebedeaux why he and the other commissioners granted Phoenix the extension in the first place. Quebedeaux said he didn't know, that he had recommended against it.

A little chuckle went through the press corps and the audience in the courtroom, as Elliot claimed, "Well, we didn't do it out of thin air! There was a good, solid reason."

That good, solid reason seems to have been that Reinhart made a persuasive showing and that there was no one in the court April 12 to back up Quebedeaux's charges, except a KTRH reporter living in Sagemont who briefly stepped out of his journalist's role to tell the court that the odor was indeed foul and pervasive.

Quebedeaux and Mrs. Cowan persisted. Quebedeaux said that Phoenix must initiate "gigantic housekeeping and cleaning up as a beginner," but that the company hasn't even done that. Although Commissioner E.A. (Squatty) Lyons, from District 4, described the extension as an act of "good faith," Quebedeaux insisted that he didn't think a "good faith program is being instituted."

Mrs. Cowan asked if the court might retroactively take away the extension, but the court indicated that this was scarcely possible or desirable.

Elliot, Lyons and Kyle Chapman from District 1 vowed that after the 90-day period is up, Phoenix will either have corrected the problem or a suit will be initiated by the county.

"How many votes does it take?" Mrs. Cowan asked. "Three," a commissioner replied. Mrs. Cowan appeared somewhat appeased.

Not to be outdone, District 2 Commissioner Jamie Bray said that while he was not one of the "three musketeers" (referring to Elliot, Lyons and Chapman)

his heart too was in the right place. (Bray, a relative new-comer to the court and along with County Judge Bill Elliot an alleged liberal, often finds himself at odds with the other three commissioners, particularly Commissioner Elliot. The reasons are probably political, possibly personal, but the results are invariably comic. The court meets at 10 a.m. every Monday and Thursday, and I always find each session good for at least one laugh.)

But as Mrs. Cowan reluctantly went to her seat, who should arise out of the audience but Thomas J. Reinhart. How he knew his company was to be under attack that day remains a mystery — the Sagemont representatives thought that maybe they have a fink somewhere in the community.

Reinhart tried to refute Mrs. Cowan's and Quebedeaux's charges, but by this time the court appeared to be under some moral and political pressure. The commissioners were none too polite.

Reinhart said that the only delay his company might incur would be due to tie-up in equipment delivery. Elliot said that the court had "no intention of giving one more day beyond 90 days," equipment or no.

Lyons, who was sitting in for the judge, who was absent that day, called Reinhart's talk a "repeat performance" and told him that the court would decide at the next session whether to invite Phoenix representatives back for further discussion.

Mrs. Cowan, her friends and Reinhart adjourned to the hall, where Reinhart reportedly told the Sagemont women that he would leave if they left too.

We later talked to James Doxey, assistant county attorney, about the procedures the county follows in prosecuting an alleged polluter. He said that any suit on any level of government in Texas proceeds only upon order from the particular governing body, in this case the commissioners court.

In Harris County, he said, Quebedeaux can recommend a suit, citizens can demand one, but only the commissioners court has the power to decide.

If the court decides to press suit, the procedure then goes to the county attorney's office for prosecution of a civil suit. Doxey said that a civil suit, unlike a criminal procedure, allows for "injunctive relief," that is, the district court judge can authorize a temporary restraining order either to require the defendant to clean up within a certain given period of time or to shut the company down until it corrects the violation.

If the defendant fails to meet the requirements within the given time period, Doxey said, he can "be held in contempt of court and somebody could go to jail."

The issuance of a temporary injunction can take up to four weeks, Doxey said, and the final hearing on the case may come from six to 12 months later.


A company acting in violation of a court order can also be fined "no less than \$50 and no more than \$1,000" per each day of violation, Doxey said. (One might note here that such a fine to some of the larger polluters could be merely a pittance. The company might be more than happy to pay a small fee for what could essentially be a license to pollute.)

Doxey said it is important that Harris County citizens, when they have a complaint, go to commissioners court to back up Quebedeaux.

Under present Texas law, citizens can file suit against companies only if they can prove that their personal health or property has been damaged. The unfortunate part is that suits require money and most citizens who live in highly-polluted areas don't have the kind of money it takes to fight big corporations.

If Phoenix Chemical or Armco Steel were situated near River Oaks or Memorial, things might be a little different. But as it is now, those citizens subjected to the heaviest industrial pollution lie in the middle and lower income brackets. So they have to wait for local governing bodies to take up their cause — and those governing bodies are subject to all kinds of pressures, particularly the ones with money and influence.

At any rate, it looks as though Phoenix Chemical may have received its last extension (though this was not its first). Meanwhile Sagemont citizens are keeping their windows shut, their barbecues indoors and their tempers hot.



# Big Stink!



# Voters: Take Note

The state constitutional amendment election is coming up on May 18. Voters will pass on a number of issues, including the controversial "liquor-by-the-drink" bill and the welfare appropriations amendment.

Space City! does not make a habit of endorsing candidates or supporting parties, nor do most of the staff members believe that basic, necessary change can come through the present electoral system. We think that strong business interests — through powerful lobbies, personal influence on candidates and issues and large campaign contributions — maintain a stranglehold on the electoral process. And it is becoming more and more apparent that Democratic-Republican (that is, "legitimate") politics consist primarily of compromise and corruption, despite the good intentions of a few honest elected officials.

But we are sure that a number of our readers do vote and some will vote in the May 18 election. We think it is important that voters understand the issues they are voting on; and at least two of the proposed amendments, No. 3 and No. 4, will have a direct effect on the health and lives of many Texans. Hence, this mini-guide to the amendment election. Most of the material was compiled from a Voter's Guide published by the League of Women Voters of Houston.

## AMENDMENT ONE:

"The constitutional amendment to create a State Ethics Commission empowered to set rules of ethics for members of the legislature, state officers and legislative officers, to investigate violations thereof, and to recommend compensation for members of the legislature and the lieutenant governor and recommend improvements and economy in the legislative process."

This amendment to Article III, Section 24, of the Texas Constitution would establish a nine-member ethics commission appointed by certain high state court judges. The commission would set salaries of legislators and would set up rules of ethics for all office holders in state government. The rules would be passed on by both houses of the legislature. All legisla-

tors would be required to present a complete financial statement to the commission, but these statements would not be made public.

Arguments favoring this amendment say that the commission, appointed by judges of the two highest Texas courts and the State Judicial Qualifications Commission, would be a fair, unbiased body able to impartially set salaries and rules of conduct. The commission would also have time to pursue a thorough study on the issues.

A code of ethics to guide all state officials as well as the financial reports would help restore faith in state government, (particularly in the wake of that ignominious stock scandal that implicated many high-ranking state officials).

If salaries are raised, legislators may be less tempted to accept bribes and other outside funding.

The arguments against say that the constitution does not need to be changed to establish a code of ethics as the legislature can do it by passing a law.

The interference of the state judiciary would violate provisions for separation of powers.

The amendment does not set guidelines for judging conduct or conflicts of interest or for setting punishment for violations. It does not provide for limits on the legislators' individual expense accounts.

The financial information would not be made available to the public, nor would citizens have control over the members of the commission.

A pay raise would require higher taxes.

## AMENDMENT TWO:

"The constitutional amendment providing that the legislature may propose an amendment of the constitution at any session of the legislature." This amendment, to Article XVII, Section 1, would permit the legislature to propose amendments to the constitution at special sessions as well as regular sessions.

## AMENDMENT THREE:

"The constitutional amendment removing the limitation on the total state appropriations for assistance grants for the needy aged, the needy disabled, and the needy blind, and setting a limitation on total state appropriations during any fiscal year for assistance grants for needy dependent children and the caretakers of such children."

This amendment to Article III, Section 51—a of the Texas Constitution removes the ceiling on total state expenditures for welfare for the aged, the disabled and the blind and places a new ceiling of \$55 million on state spending grants for Aid to Families With Dependent Children (AFDC).

The arguments for this amendment say that it would halt inflexible limitations which have caused welfare crises in Texas before for the aged, the disabled and blind. If the amendment fails, drastic welfare cuts will be necessary this fall which would cut off a good number of poor people.

Even if the welfare system may be changed in the future, the state must support the poor adequately until the changes are made.

Some 75% of welfare payments now go to the aged, blind and disabled and this amendment would ensure that their needs would continue to be met. The proposed ceiling on AFDC payments would maintain the present allotment (75% of estimated need) for the next two years.

Opponents of the amendment say that there should be a ceiling on welfare payments so costs do not rise too high, thus raising taxes. The whole welfare system must be revised and the amendment would only postpone change.

Reform rather than amendment to the welfare system could reduce some welfare costs. One suggested reform would require stricter application of existing rules to remove those not qualified for welfare from the rolls.

Rulings by federal courts have forced the states to put more people on the welfare rolls, so the federal government should pay more of the costs, in

which case the amendment would be unnecessary.

The Texas Welfare Rights Organization was quoted in a Chronicle article April 11 as opposing the amendment in favor of reform. The Houston chapter of WRO, however, is continuing to support the amendment as the best that can be done for now.

## AMENDMENT FOUR:

"The constitutional amendment to authorize the issuance of One Hundred Million Dollars (\$100,000,000) in bonds to provide financial assistance to cities and other public agencies for water quality enhancement purposes, providing for the improvement and continuance of the water resources program, and establishing an interest ceiling on Water Development Bonds at 6% per annum."

The amendment to Article III would allow the Texas Water Development Board to issue \$100,000,000 worth of bonds to raise water quality levels in Texas and would raise the interest ceiling on the bonds from the current 4% to 6% per year. Money from the bonds would be lent or granted to cities or other public agencies for improvement of water quality under direction of the Texas Water Quality Board.

Those in favor of the amendment say that it would make more funds available to help local governments improve the quality of their water and would help provide a sufficient water supply to all of Texas. An increase in state funds used for sewage treatment plants would mean an increase in federal matching funds. The higher interest rate on bonds is necessary to make it possible to sell the bonds today.

Opponents of the amendment say that it is better to appropriate money from the legislature for such purposes as sewage treatment and water quality than to bond it, as the taxpayer ends up paying more on a bond because of the interest rate. Opponents point out that Texas has no water quality program, as specified in the amendment, and that some Texas officials may take passage of this amendment as a referendum endorsing the Texas Water

Cont. on 12

## GREATER AMERICAN COLLECTIVE BEDPAN WEEKLY

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by narum'71





Boycott Progresses...

# Lettuce Growers Talk

by Bill Chandler

Thirteen representatives of those lettuce growers who signed sweetheart contracts with a Teamster local in Salinas, Cal. last summer have been meeting with the United Farm Workers Organizing Committee, AFL-CIO since Tuesday, April 27.

This is the first significant development stemming from the 30-day moratorium on the boycott of lettuce produced under those sweetheart contracts, and a hopeful sign for the Farm Workers.

The moratorium was called after the Teamsters signed a pact with UFWOC on March 26, giving full jurisdiction for organizing farm workers to UFWOC, and admitting the obvious, that UFWOC represents lettuce workers.

The action by the Teamsters followed six months of embarrassment and pressure. First the lettuce workers walked out of the fields protesting Teamster contracts, drawing nationwide support. Then people all over the nation began boycotting "Teamster" lettuce.

During the moratorium the Team-

sters asked the growers to release them from the sweetheart contracts and to recognize UFWOC. As a result of the moratorium the growers have agreed to meet with the Farm Workers, a giant step in the right direction.

Whether the meetings will produce signed contracts is still another question. But UFWOC has shown its good faith by extending the moratorium beyond the scheduled April 26 deadline to give them a chance to resolve the issue through negotiated and signed union contracts with the Farm Workers.

However, while the moratorium has been in effect, lettuce boycott activists have been after the remaining lettuce growers (numbering more than 200) who are not involved with the Teamsters, but who have refused to recognize the Farm Workers.

Of those, 11 were listed as top priority for boycott attention. Each grower ships produce under many labels so a list of growers and labels would be too lengthy to print here.

The growers' names do appear on each box (usually in small print). The

following list should make it easy to identify "ultra-scab" lettuce: Palo Verde Farms, Hi-Life Farms, Abatti-Kirkorian, Del-Mar Packing, Hogue Produce, J.R. Norton, Senini-Arizona, Tri-Produce, J.A. Wood, Pleasant Valley Farms and Santa Clara Produce.

The Farm Workers need your help in a massive store checking campaign to keep this lettuce out of Houston. Visit the grocers, restaurant managers and personnel in other institutions in your neighborhood. Then call the lettuce boycott office at 522-8142 or

524-9404 with this information:

1) brand on hand when visited, 2) which produce house supplied them and 3) will they agree to cooperate with the boycott and order the Farm Workers Eagle label on their next lettuce shipment?

And when the moratorium ends, no store should handle non-UFWOC label lettuce. The Farm Workers and boycott activists will be asking the stores to sell only Farm Workers lettuce and when the moratorium ends, the chains that demonstrate the most ardent unwillingness will be picketed.

## FARM WORKER FIESTA

Farm Workers and local supporters of the United Farm Workers Organizing Committee lettuce boycott held a *fiesta campesina* Saturday, May 1, in Moody Park.

The celebration was preceeded by car caravans starting from several areas of the city and converging at the *fiesta*. They stopped along the way at several chain stores to check if UFWOC lettuce was available and if not, demanding that the store handle it.

The crowd at the *fiesta*, which numbered about 800 people throughout the day, heard a speech by Texas Farm Worker leader Antonio Orendain. There were skits performed by the new *teatro boycoteo* and music by local Chicano bands, including the Saints and Singers.

## Rationalizing Racism

# End of Whiteness

It seems after being sucked dry with phony rhetoric of White solidarity, the leadership of the Black Panther Party is now to be analyzed and intellectualized into the grave of irrelevance. The author of "End of a Romance?" is totally brilliant in his Whiteness, but the Panthers and Huey Newton are witnesses to the reality of Blackness, and the reality of genocide. Unfortunately these realities were not considered in the discussion of the theory of Revolutionary Intercommunalism and the political values of Euro-America. In dealing with racism and Whiteness the author is just a shot away.

First, Huey, as beautiful as his example has been for the masses everywhere, cannot create an analysis, intellectual or emotional, to change the lives of Black folk simply by becoming rational. Rationality in Euro-America is a mutation of human logic. To Euro-America Black slavery was rational, "Indian" genocide was rational and Hiroshima was rational. Any analysis which ignores the evil of western civilization, i.e. its rationalized racism rooted in fear of the human body, dirt, nature, even in emotions, is absurd. NO theory of Revolutionary Intercommunalism will reveal the senseless tragedy of racism to the racist. Nor will this theory destroy racism or weaken its hold on the population of Euro-America. It refuses to ask the only relevant question, "Is racism and Whiteness one and the same?" (I say yes it is.)

Huey's polemics are politically naive and psychologically insufficient to deal with the phenomena of Whiteness. One must understand that Euro-America is not just reactionary or imperialist, but it is the very cancer of anti-human values that make up the mythology and ideology of western White society.



'Perspective' is a Space City! feature which allows for the publication of articles which may not (or may) fall within the general political perspective or areas of interest of the Space City! staff. We feel that it is important to open our pages to varying perspectives, while at the same time remaining conscious of certain ideals and goals. If you would be interested in contributing to this feature, submit your article to Perspective, Space City!, 1217 Wichita, Houston, Texas 77004. We'll consider them on the basis of readability, originality, general interest to readers, etc. Please keep your comments brief and to the point.

The following Perspective was prompted by "End of a Romance," a Perspective which appeared in the April 27 issue.

Third World Liberation Movements will not invalidate their nationalist roots simply because someone theorizes the necessity of its disappearance. Their struggles have been long and often costly in human lives and their knowledge of history and racism tells them that calls for international solidarity or unity must be based on realistic revolutionary situations, not on assumptions and blind faith. Solidarity between the third world and the first world of Euro-America can only exist with the death of the racist mystique of Whiteness.

Racism is a source of gratification for Whiteness. It defines a social privilege, absorbs aggression, creates a sense of virtue that has greatly contributed to the material success of Euro-America. Also central to western cultural values is the notion that human nature leads men to dominate each other. The western conception of property is even more extraordinary, i.e. life on earth to Whites is the expansion of self through its acquis-

tion of property. Thus White-male-ness reduces the Black to a body (as with women), makes her quantifiable and absorbs her into the market of production (or reproduction i.e. our sisters) exchange. Black human becomes/is Black thing, a non-human object without power or possibility of power. Thus the rise of western society to world domination was/is sustained by the creation of Whiteness. Which had no validity until Europeans discovered Africa, the Americas and traveled in non-White Asia in search for conquest and plunder. Whiteness then is the bastard of European greed and a refusal of the third world to worship rape.

The Euro-American radical movement has not denounced Whiteness, only its crudeness and its unsophistication. I am still told that Revolution in America will be led and controlled by either White workers or White youth. Even after they have betrayed their own movements I am told to put

my peoples lives into their hands. Even peace in this context is a racism cause. The Vietnamese people are asked to forget the murder and rape of its brothers and sisters to betray and compromise their struggles. End the war means let them kill/oppress themselves, not let them liberate themselves.

Radicals who respond to Huey Newton's intellectualisms but not to Cleaver's gut reaction that Whites show signs that they can visualize salvation which would their power and privilege as simply racist. That is a fact but not necessarily a natural situation. Human beings can CHANGE

But this country is on a road to genocide of non-Whites on a global level. Vietnam is just a testing range for strategic weapons. Revolution can halt this genocidal attempt. But Blacks cannot depend on Euro-American radical outgrowing their "Whiteness" and becoming revolutionary. Revolution takes willingness to question yourself as well as your political-economic system. It also takes great human sacrifice and Euro-American youth have shown themselves to be "short winded."

And Whites will feel no remorse at non-White death. Blacks/Chicanos/Asia/Arabs all represent humans which Whites are trying to transcend and destroy. We are a divisive force and an embarrassment. They must be removed, from invisibility - - - to extinction.

A revolutionary ideology must force US ALL to look and feel into our madness and our love/our bedrooms and toilets/our experiences and fantasy. It must give us the breath of ourselves not of just another Speech.





MayDay

# Success or Failure?

by Jeff Shero

The news media described the anti-war civil disobedience in Washington as a failure. Traffic continued to flow, congress continued to meet, and demonstration workers appeared for another humdrum day of paper shuffling.

Tactically, the demonstrators' battle plans turned into a fiasco. In the coverage of the war in Vietnam, the media ignored the overall objective.

Despite the slogans, demonstrators didn't go to Washington to stop the government; they went to force a country lulled to sleep by Nixon's withdrawals into facing the fact that in the last year more people were killed in Vietnam through the use of air power, and that the war has been won in Laos and Cambodia.



For a ragged crew of hippies, workers, blacks and veterans, stopping the government was never a possibility. (We shouldn't take our own rhetoric seriously.) The goal was to raise discord so the administration could not maintain the seemingly becalmed surface of America as contentment with a pro-war with a buffed up image.

Some 20,000 people put their bodies on the line, saying, if you continue the war you will be forced to gas us, club us and haul us off to overcrowded jails. And if the war still doesn't stop, next time we will be stronger.

Almost three years ago Nixon was elected with a promise of a secret which he couldn't reveal lest he blow it, to end the war. The demonstration brought home the message — Nixon's a failure. They proved that even hadn't died down after Kent State, Jackson State and Cambodia — in a new culture had become more deeply rooted, seeking new channels of expression.

But even more important, the chant on the Capitol steps, harking back to its first use in Chicago — "The whole world is watching" — reflected a new generation's awareness of the electronic miniaturization of the planet. It flashed to every country in Western Europe (What effect might it have had on last week's weakened confidence in the dollar?), to the people who are nationalizing American industry, to Asians resisting yet another man's incursion and to the American GIs themselves, who know they need support when they smoke dope rather than execute meaningless John F. Kennedy charges into Vietnamese villages. The fate of the American empire is now fully circumscribed into the consciousness of the rest of the world.

The present protracted conflict is filled with ambiguity and has no clear lines or decisive battles. It is totally unlike the past wars. The World



armchair generals and hackward politicians who predict the future by staring at the past are totally unable to cope with the demands of modern conflict.

The revolutionary forces have never won decisive military victories in Vietnam; the NLF is unable to hold any major city, but throughout it has fought with a view to the whole. Employing every tactic — from world opinion, to moral pressure on the best parts of America, to total organization of their people, to military operations executed for political gains rather than for military objectives — the Vietnamese have frustrated the mightiest army in the world. The Tet offensive for example won no major territory, but it proved to the American people that there wasn't a "light at the end of the tunnel," and that the Vietnamese will to fight was undiminished.

American papers, reporting American victories in the daily battles in Vietnam, miss the larger context. One day, after numerous battlefield successes, the American army will be brought home, and the revolutionary Vietnamese will still be in Vietnam. The revolutionaries, fighting in a total life context, will have won the war.

Likewise, the reports of the demonstrators' failure to shut down Washington obscure the total context of the demonstrations. The success can't be measured by how many cars were caught in traffic jams and how many bureaucrats were late to work. The success lies in how much insight young people, who are the future, gained in witnessing the American government blatantly refusing to heed the majority will of the people to end the war.

## Nation-wide

# May Day

While over 10,000 citizens were being arrested in Washington for their opposition to the war, those who had remained behind took the message to their home towns.

Three thousand University of Maryland students set up a blockade on U.S. Highway 1 as they had in the aftermath of Kent State and Jackson State. Thirty-five hundred antiwar protestors took over the John F. Kennedy Federal Building in Boston. In Detroit, another 3,500 demonstrators marched on the Chrysler artillery tank plant in suburban Warren. Columbus, Ohio; Iowa City, Iowa; Denver; Minneapolis; Albuquerque and Buffalo were the sites of other militant anti-war protests over the Maydays.

In San Francisco 2,000 demonstrators encircled the Standard Oil Building in the downtown financial district and then battled with police for control of the streets. In Carbondale, Ill., home of Southern Illinois University and the Center for Vietnamese Studies which trains Saigon government province chiefs and does counter insurgency research, 3,000 people rallied to shut down the Center on May 5.

In New York City, 20,000 students and working people rallied at Bryant Park at the end of the May 5 Moratorium Day. In Saratoga Springs and Albany, N.Y., high schools were suspended when students refused to end May 5 rallies and return to classes.

In the Pacific northwest, 1,000 people attended a rally in Portland, Ore., while another 1,000 heard Jane Fonda, Don Sutherland and Vietnam vets speak at Ft. Lewis in Tacoma, Wash. In Eugene, Ore., 3,000 attended a Mayday rally at which speakers included both the mayor and women who had been to the Vancouver conference with Vietnamese women.

The demonstrations in Washington were not only against the war. Concurrent demands of the People's Coalition for Peace and Justice and the Mayday Tribe included a guaranteed \$6,500 annual income for all Americans and the immediate release of all political prisoners.

About 1,000 people gathered on the New Haven green to hear speeches and songs that demanded freedom for Bobby Seale and Ericka Huggins and an end to the war. May 4 was Angela Davis Day in Eugene, Ore.

And deep down in the South, about 8,000 people from across the state of Georgia joined the Milledgeville, Ga., black citizens in a Mayday mule train and rally to protest police brutality and racism in local business and government.

(compiled from LNS releases)

## Local MayDay Actions

# At Home

by Tom Hylden and Sue Mithun

The Houston Mayday Tribe surfaced for a few days in downtown Houston last week, trying to bring a little bit of Washington, not to mention Indochina, to the streets of our fair, though far-removed, city.

The day — May 5, national moratorium on business as usual — began early as a group of 25 appeared in front of the Armed Forces Induction Center at 6:30 a.m., offering coffee, doughnuts and draft advice to those who were to appear for pre-induction physicals or induction.

The idea was to tell the inductees that they didn't have to go, that assistance was available through Houston draft counseling agencies, if they wanted it. If they felt it was too late to do anything, as most of them did, then they were told about the growing GI movement within the armed forces.

The demonstrators and draft counselors, quietly talking to the people and offering them a little breakfast, presented a marked contrast to the representatives of Police Chief Herman Short's army, who were everywhere in evidence — whether slyly taking photographs of the subversives or just standing around, in case anything illegal should happen.

The group, which by now had grown to about 50 people, then moved on to the Humble Building where they passed out leaflets on corporate Houston's involvement in the war and presented guerilla theater. Humble is a subsidiary of Standard Oil of New Jersey, the nation's thirtieth largest defense contractor, supplying the fuel for the American war machine in Southeast Asia.

A smiling Humble public relations man came out to meet the demonstrators. He said that Humble is only in the business of selling gasoline and not responsible for what their customers do with it. (It's true that Humble sells gasoline; it's also true that they bid specifically on the Defense Department contract and are well aware of what the Army uses its fuel for.)

The guerilla theater depicted U.S. soldiers arresting suspected N.L.F. sympathizers and herding them into a tiny "tiger cage" type prison cell, as used in South Vietnam, and replacements for which are being built by a consortium which includes Houston's Brown and Root. (See Space City!, Vol. II, No. 22.)

The atmosphere at the Humble Building was almost light-hearted. Employees stood inside the spacious lobby and peered out the windows of their offices watching the proceedings, apparently pleased at the break in a normally dull routine. The demonstrators, perhaps initially a bit uptight about actually taking to the streets of downtown Houston in defiance of the city's unconstitutional anti-leafletting and anti-loitering ordinances, seemed to be enjoying themselves, despite the ever present cops and police photographers.

At this point the group marched over to City Hall and the City Council chambers to bring their story to their elected representatives. They asked the City Fathers to take a stand on the war in Indochina by endorsing the People's Peace Treaty. In response to an earlier claim by the Mayor that it was not within the council's jurisdiction to deal in matters of foreign policy, the speakers pointed out that the council had endorsed the recent POW campaign and had gone on record as supporting President Nixon's intervention in the Calley trial.

The council was also asked to investigate the relationship between some Houston corporations and the war in Indochina. It was pointed out that Humble, which supplies fuel for the Army; Honeywell, which supplies anti-personnel fragmentation bombs to the Air Force; Dow Chemical, which manufactures herbicides for the Army; and Brown and Root, which builds prisons for the Thieu-Ky dictatorship, all have offices in Houston and profit off the war.

The councilmen had no questions or comments. Their complete silence made one tend to believe that the council's allegiance lies with the large Houston corporations who profit off the war (and whose directors contribute heavily to campaign funds), rather than with the citizens of the city who want to see the killing and rape of the land and people of Indochina stopped.

Louie Welch, who had shown such seeming concern for the plight of American prisoners of war a few months ago, left the room before these speakers, rather than be confronted with the idea that the best way to bring the prisoners home might be to end the war. (Welch should perhaps have followed the advice of the 45 year old insurance salesman who appeared before the council during the POW hullabaloo and suggested that the mayor offer *himself* in exchange for the captured American pilots.)

The demonstrators next marched on the Federal Building. Whereas earlier in the day the police had remained apart from the demonstrators, though still visible, they here decided to make their presence acutely felt. First the doors to the building were closed to anyone with long hair, preventing the demonstrators from entering to talk to the government (the People's) employees about the war. Several police cars pulled up in front of the building and cops started milling about among the demonstrators, giving orders to "move on." One of the group, James Jewel, a 25 year old chemist, was arrested for "failure to move on." Jewel claimed he didn't hear the order but was rushed off anyway in the paddy wagon that had suddenly appeared on the scene.

It looked as if the police were making a real effort to intimidate the demonstrators, and they succeeded in preventing the guerilla theater. The repressive atmosphere at the Federal Building was quite a contrast to the liberal, permissive one at the Humble Building and, this time, the demonstrators were unprepared for the change.

Not deterred by the cops, however, were several sisters on their lunch hour from a local bank who brought signs saying things like: "FUCK WAR! Dirty word; dirty game" and got a picket started. Around 12:45 p.m. the group began to disperse and headed for Hermann Park to meet the high school students who had gone on strike that day. At the park, people sat around rapping and eating fried chicken, and attempted to liberate the reflection pool for a refreshing swim. This liberation, however, was cut short by, that's right, the Men in Blue again.

The previous day, Tuesday, May 4, a smaller group had gone and infiltrated the induction center, passing out draft counseling literature to the inductees as they waited to have their minds tested for military acceptance. Some of the Tribe then went off to the Gulf Building on Main St. and presented guerilla theater and leafletted until being told to move on by the police.

Next they went to the large patio in front of City Hall and presented their theater for the benefit of lunchtime strollers in the park. Again the atmosphere was light-hearted and spectators were cordial. They asked why the tiger cage had a sign saying, "Made in Houston by Brown and Root" and seemed interested to hear that atrocities in Vietnam had roots in Houston.

On Wednesday afternoon, remnants of the Mayday Tribe trucked on out to the massive Brown and Root complex on Clinton Drive in northeast Houston where they gave out nearly 200 free copies of the Space City! issue with the large expose on Brown and Root. The workers streaming out of the complex seemed to enjoy receiving the paper right there in their own front yard. The B&R executives didn't seem as pleased; many of them, sitting in their big, dark sedans, refused to take a free copy of the paper, quickly averting their eyes from its cover which showed a big steam shovel scooping up hordes of dollars while GIs, Vietnamese and workers languished in the foreground.

The overall intent of the Houston Mayday actions was to encourage individuals to take action on their own initiative to bring pressure on the government to stop the war. People were encouraged to write to their congressmen and to corporations with defense contracts, to refuse to pay the telephone war tax and, in general, to get off their asses. The Mayday actions, both in Houston and in Washington, were a prelude to a summer of anti-war organizing around the People's Peace Treaty.



## Raza Art

there is a raza art festival happening in houston right now at the ripley house and gym in the 2nd ward. by the time you read this, it will be over. there were exhibits and cultural programs. thousands of pieces of works of chicano artists from all over the states. some of the work was good. I am no critic. I am an artist. all of it created with good feeling and based on the idea that no matter how oppressed we may be, we are still alive and know it and our lives and arts are the symbol of that life.

but do I dare speak as chicano when I am not? I am latin and this gives me the pass if I do need one to say what I feel I must say.

I wish I could say it went well, that it was a fantastic event, that I really feel something beautiful really happened. but I can not. these thoughts trouble me. I have come to realize that revolutionary self-criticism is necessary.

when working with the people on the organizing committee, I felt a strange air of falseness, as if we were using hypocritical paint on ourselves. revolutionary rhetoric means nothing. what good does it do to have the image of che overlooking us from the walls if we fail to use his ideals as the basis of our thoughts? what good does it do, I ask openly to those people I worked with, to have everything lose its meaning because only a handful of people are really disciplined to do any of the work? I have not that discipline yet I know, but we can arrive nowhere unless we go together. so we start with a dream of showing and feeling that beautiful indian culture we have behind us, but its portrayal becomes a mask. we fail to reach anyone because we can not reach each other.

I do not even feel capable of saying these things to some of the people I worked with because I know they would not understand. it is a typical happening at any latin gathering to have the women on the bottom. the men talk and plan and build things in wood, halfway. the woman does the shitwork and spends whole days hanging up exhibits or writing the letters or papier-macheing the mask some man designed. the woman cuts the pattern and sews the costume. the woman pulls at the kids and treats them like trash because the man yells to her to keep everything quiet because he's on the phone making more plans and more details.

perhaps it is unfair to be so critical. but I must think in terms of that revolution that must happen, because I believe in it. these past days have hit me hard and keep pushing me into deception, lower the little energy I have. but that revolution is just a game if we don't work from day to day. it is absurd to think we can do it alone and by feeling we have some superior power over the people we are supposed to be with. we can not do it if we alienate ourselves from each other. I can say power to the people and mean only me. we can not do anything unless we stop competing with each other. we must learn to say what we feel at the time we feel it, and struggle with all those thoughts at the time they come. together.

I do not want to feel I have to compete with other women when I walk into a room where there are men, or worse yet, to feel resentment for being there from the women who are there and whom I want to reach and touch. the festival perhaps did some good. it showed our people perhaps that we are alive. that we don't need to go very far to find artists. that we are all



Blues master Willie Dixon at Liberty Hall. Photo by Dennis Hunt.



Theater at Raza Arts Festival. Photo by Sue Mithun



Big Mama Thornton, coming to Liberty Hall this week. LNS photo.

artists once we start living alive. it was a good experience to try and work collectively.

I do not feel accomplishment. if anything mere sadness and deception because something so beautiful and noble could have become such a farce. everything else around me feels false. the death in this society is still the life.

I would like to think that something has been going on. but I am afraid it is otherwise. nothing has happened. and that revolution is still very far.

—consuelo mendez

## Music Shorts

The series on the history of the Houston music scene promised a couple of weeks ago is in the works. We have already found some juicy material and it looks like the series will run for a long time. Much help is still needed, and all information, souvenirs, and other trivial nostalgia should be sent in, for history's sake.

Don't forget. The name is Jim Shannon, 1217 Wichita, Houston, Tex., 77004, 526-6257, etc., etc.

England's Trapeze will be playing Of Our Own this Wednesday for one performance only. The gig was just confirmed last week, and enough publicity will hopefully get out in order to ensure a good crowd. This weekend will feature Children and Deerfield for a cheap \$1.50. Oh, yea. Trapeze will cost two bucks, and on the same bill will be one of Houston's top groups, Saturnalia. Also appearing will be a new group, Old Glory. It looks like a good show; the good shows are coming to the club with increasing frequency. You really should check it out.

## Dixon & Gibbons

Scrape off the outer layer of hair, satin, fringe and thousand watt amplifiers on today's rock music and more than likely you'll see black. Look past the charisma-money-glory of the Rolling Stones, Ten Years After, Led Zeppelin, Janis Joplin, Joe Cocker, Eric Clapton and Johnny Winter and you'll see Robert Johnson, Big Mama Thornton, Bessie Smith, Ray Charles, Muddy Waters and Willie Dixon. The popular culture owes much to its blues roots.

A capacity crowd filled Liberty Hall last Thursday night to pay homage to an idiom of music that has gone unheralded for quite a while — at least by the white, consumer part of the population. The audience was primarily young and white and seemed very enthusiastic to participate in the current blues revival. The Texas All-Star Blues Revue is giving people a chance to witness the blues at its finest. The past weekend Willie Dixon and the Chicago All-Stars headlined, rounded out by Bloontz All-Star Blues Band. (My apologies to Bloontz — I didn't get there until after they had played, but several people told me they were quite good.)

Dixon, whose songs have been recorded by artists like Cream (Spoonful), Led Zeppelin (I Can't Quit You Baby, You Shook Me), Jeff Beck (You Shook Me) and many others, came off well as an entertainer in his own rite;

Cont. on 11



Cont. from 10

the cat is the blues. Standing in the middle of the stage with a big bass fiddle, Willie paced the band through some standard blues cuts, including a few of the more than 500 songs he has penned in his career. His more than competent playmates included Shakey Walter Horton, whom Willie has described as "the greatest harp player in the world." Drummer Clifton James was a constant presence with his blues beats and filled in with a vocal on "Stormy Monday." Guitar and piano playing from Lafayette Leaf and Lightning Ellison made the All-Stars truly outstanding. The set's end had the crowd on their feet, yelling for more, a fitting tribute.

The Thursday night crowd was treated to an added bonus, namely the appearance of a famed blues group of local origin, ZZ Top, who shared with the audience the fact of being young and white. The set was heavily laced with cuts from their first album (on London Records). They had just returned from a very successful gig in Memphis and readily offered a smooth exciting performance. Lead guitarist/vocalist Billy Gibbons is to ZZ Top what Willie Dixon is to the All-Stars—a strong guiding force, driving the music on. The audience, many of whom were obviously familiar with the lp, at times screamed and hollered, at times listened attentively, between songs calling for their favorites, etc. Gibbons remained cool, but definitely was in to revealing the fact that he also knew something about the blues. A lesser band would no doubt have been burned severely, but ZZ Top came through in style.

Bassist Dusty Hill lent strong bottom to the sound, and his vocal on "Goin' Down To Mexico" blew my mind. Drummer Rube Beard was definitely ZZ Top drummer Rube Beard. (The guy is consistently good: what else can you say?) They returned after the end of the set amid cries for more, responding with their big song "Brown Sugar." As expected, the crowd went wild. (I hope my audience analysis hasn't been too much of a drag.)

Let me finish with three things you should watch for:

- 1) The rest of the Texas All Star Blues Revue at Liberty Hall with Big Mama Thornton and Lightnin' Hopkins this Wednesday through Sunday. Call Liberty Hall for more info, 225-6250.
- 2) The upcoming series on the history of the Houston music scene — soon within these very pages.
- 3) I don't remember the third thing (that's what deadlines do to your mind). But presumably we'll both know it when we see it.

—Jim Shannon

## THX 1138

THX 1138 has a locus midway between 1984 and 2001. Its horrific vision of the future, a la Orwell's prophetic novel, is contained in a form resembling the Kubrick-Clarke film. Civilization has moved underground, into a sterile-white, computer-efficient world. Technology has taken over, establishing its own needs as societal priorities. Humans are thoroughly depersonalized: their heads are shaven, they wear all white, they have numbers for names, they are drugged into complacency. Drug evasion and sex are crimes, and citizens are rewarded for ratting on one another.

THX (Robert Duvall) and LUH (Maggie McOmie), his roommate, lay

off the drugs awhile, get started laying on one another, and become attached — emotionally as well as physically. Complications arise, however, taking LUH to a reproduction unit and THX to an insane ward in the middle of an expansive white-nowhere prison.

Ultimately, THX escapes and is chased by black leather robot cops. The chase is abandoned when the computer deems it too expensive, so the hero emerges into the natural world above ground.

The picture is an independent production, in the "new Hollywood" tradition, made by Francis Ford Coppola's company, American-Zoetrope. Twenty-five year old George Lucas, who wrote, directed, and cut the picture, creates many striking effects, the most memorable of which is the constant juxtaposition of flesh tone and white. The hardware looks convincing and is well photographed. Locations are extremely well chosen and cleverly utilized. Lalo Schiffrin's haunting score is superbly appropriate, and frequently makes up for shortcomings in the flow of dramatic action.

The weakest aspect of the picture is the screenplay. The characters are vague and the plot is not tightly enough woven to be consistently engaging. Also, we are left wondering why men moved underground, what is above ground, and what will happen to THX once he is there?

The film is, in truth, only lukewarm melodrama, a bit too confused to have much impact. But it is a must for science fiction buffs. —Gary Chason

## Wolfe's New Book

*Radical Chic and Mau-Mauing the Flak Catchers*; Tom Wolfe; Farrar, Straus and Giroux, New York; \$5.95.

*Radical Chic and Mau-Mauing the Flak Catchers*, Tom Wolfe's latest hardback book in essay form reports in true sardonic, socio-logical Wolfe style the dubious, short-lived, New York upper-crust fad of fund-raising for radical causes (*Radical Chic*) and the direct confrontation style of fund-raising by the radicals themselves (*Mau-Mauing the Flak Catchers*). The book doesn't begin to measure up in style or content to Wolfe's *Electric Kool-Aid Acid Test*, the uproarious chronicle of Ken Kesey and the Merry Pranksters.

This is true for one basic reason which is not really related to Wolfe's ability to write. The inability of *Radical Chic and Mau-Mauing the Flak Catchers* to move in the way that *Electric Kool-Aid Acid Test* did is mainly a sign of the times. When *Acid Test* was written (1967-1968), although the war was in full swing, poverty, police and pollution of earth, mind and body were just as present as ever, all was generally felt to be well. The Movement had high, untested ideals. Sgt. Pepper's was on the minds of us all. And, Hippies and Haight-Ashbury were a romantic sub-culture. LOVE was everywhere.

*R.C. and M.M.F.C.* was written when repression was on the upswing (it still is). Panthers had been ripped-off by cops across the country. Washington, 1968 and Nixon had happened. Kent State had also happened. And, the war went on, bloodier than ever with My Lai as one focal point. The mood shows in the writing.

When Wolfe starts out by saying radical chic was motivated by "nostalgie de la boue," a 19th Century phrase used among the elite to des-

cribe relating to the lower classes, which literally translated means "nostalgia for the mud," the reader knows Wolfe sarcasm is coming. Then, "Who do I call to give a party?" instead of "How can I use my money and prestige effectively to stop police repression and cultural oppression?" is the concerned question put to a Black Panther by a Radical Chic at the Leonard Bernstein party, Wolfe's focal point of the essay. Wolfe picks up on the question to unify the tone and mood of his observance and recording of the cliché ridden party. To drive a point home that has, for the most part, already been made, Wolfe restates in concrete terms the extent of the devotion to Radical Chic. "Radical Chic, after all, is only radical in style; in its heart it is part of Society and its traditions. Politics, like Rock, Pop and Camp, has its uses; but to put one's whole status on the line for "nostalgie de la boue" in any of its forms would be unprincipled."

Wolfe is strictly an observer of Radical Chic at the Bernstein party. He does not inject himself into the society as he does in *Electric Kool-Aid Acid Test*. He obviously does not want to be a part of that culture; whereas, Kesey's culture was easier and more desirable to slip in and out of in order to observe. This makes *Radical Chic* more commentary than chronicle. It also makes for dullish reading.

A valid question is, why would the people of the Black Panthers, Young Lords and La Raza Unida put up with these people? *Mau-Mauing the Flak Catchers*, the better of the two essays, tells why. *Mau-Mauing* is a phrase

coined by black groups and adopted by all ethnic groups, which implies that ethnics, especially blacks, are so savage in the minds of the white bureaucrat that they can scare flak catchers like the Office of Economic Opportunity and City Hall into giving bread to various poverty programs. Flak catchers are bureaucrats — specifically government workers, but really anyone who identifies with the establishment, e.g. New York social elite. The only thing they are good for is their money.

*Mau-Mauing the Flak Catchers* comes closer to matching the wit and humor of Wolfe's writing that characterizes *Electric Kool-Aid Acid Test* and makes the reader laugh aloud while reading. Wolfe can and does relate to the style and class of the ethnics.

Tom Wolfe in all of his work can pinpoint social movements, motivations and nuances of cultures with vivid accuracy. He does so in these two essays with equal accuracy as he has in his other books, but it doesn't come across as interesting reading or refined writing.

If you don't have a good idea already about what the elite liberals are up to or if you want a humorous, accurate-for-a-white-man viewpoint of one aspect of ethnic, radical culture, *R.C. & M.M.F.C.* is short and readable. But, borrow it from me or read it if and when it comes out in paper back. Don't pay Farrar, Straus and Giroux and, alas, Tom Wolfe, \$5.95 for it.

—Roxann Davis

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Cont. from 6  
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Residents of the Houston Independent School District may vote on this proposition: "Shall a Houston Independent School District Community Junior College District with: 1) no taxing authority, 2) boundaries coextensive with those of the Houston Independent School District and 3) control and management in the Board

of Trustees of the Houston Independent School District, be created as provided in Chapter 51, Subchapter B, of the Texas Education Code?" In other words, do you want a new junior college system in Houston under control of HISD?

Voters in Harris County will cast the ballot pro or con on the "liquor-by-the-drink" proposition, which would permit the legal sale of mixed beverages.

The polls will be open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday, May 18. Absentee voting began May 6 and runs through May 17 at the County Clerk's Office, Room 206, Harris County Courthouse, 301 San Jacinto.

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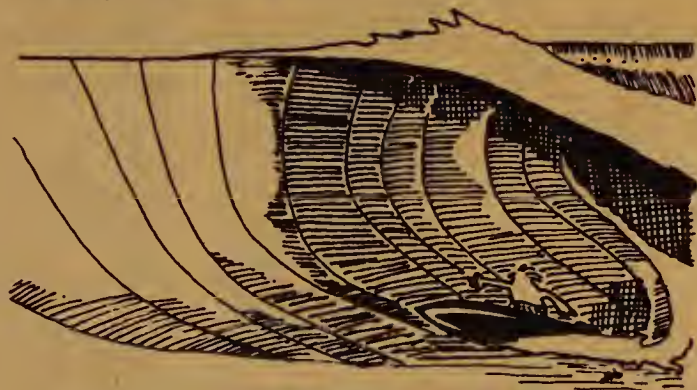
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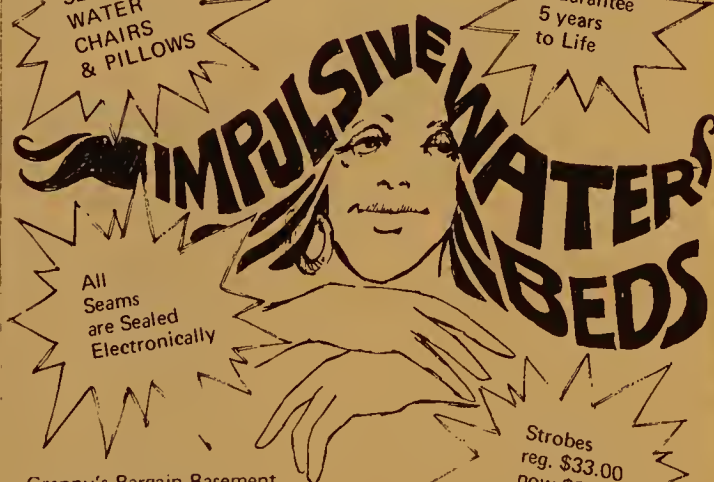
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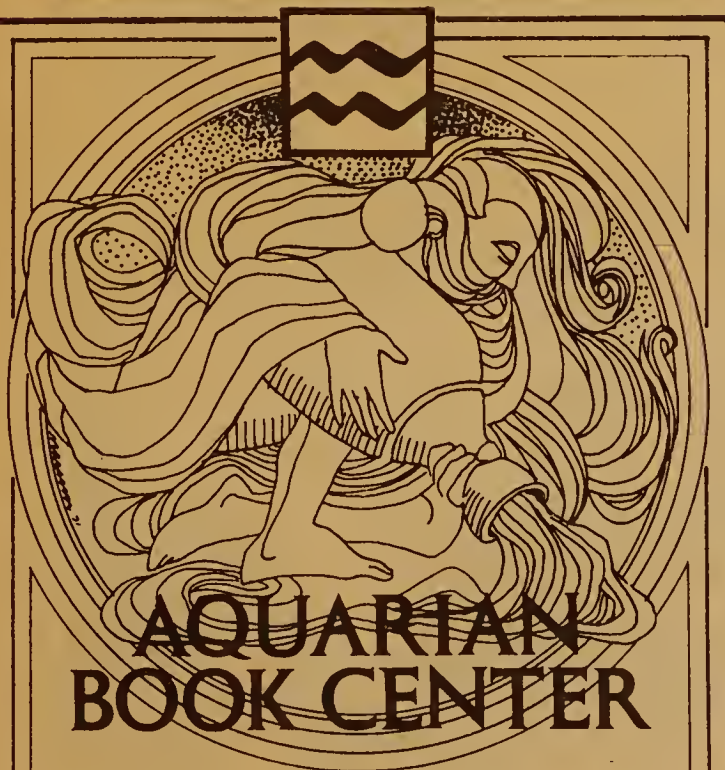
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# KAUN NEWS 960 AM



## MUSIC

Tuesday, May 11 — BIG BOOGIE CONCERT, a benefit, all proceeds go to open a community restaurant staffed by old Texas Rose folks. BLOUNTZ ALL STAR BAND, SOUTH, BLUE STAR BANO, GINGER VALLEY, SURPRISE GUEST, BRUISER BAR-TON MCS. Liberty Hall, 1610 Chenevert, 8pm.

Of Our Own, University & Kirby

May 14-15 — CHILDREN, DEERFIELD, 8pm, \$1.50.

May 20-22 — LITTLEFEAT, 8pm, \$1.50.

### England's Trapeze

May 12 — TRAPEZE from England (records on Threshold label) SATURNALIA, OLO GLORY, 8pm \$2.

## coming

DEMIAN, formerly Houston's Bubble Puppy

Liberty Hall, 1610 Chenevert

May 13, 14, 15, 16 — BIG MAMA THORNTON and LIGHTNIN' HOPKINS, \$2, no minors, beer wine & sandwiches, 8pm.

Hermann Park Miller Outdoor Theatre

May 15 — SOUL MUSIC CONCERT, 8:30

May 16 — SUM CONCERT, 8:30 pm

May 23 — COUNTRY & WESTERN, 8:30

June 6, 8, 10, 13 — THE HOUSTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA, 8:15 pm free.

June 12 — JAZZ & OXISLAND MUSIC SHOW, 8:30pm, free.

June 26 — MOTHER EARTH and DOOBIE BROS, \$2.50, Music Hall, other info not available yet.

May 20 — ELTON JOHN, Coliseum, 8 pm, \$4, \$5, \$6.

May 20 — Wagner's OIE MEISTERSINGER OVERTURE will be performed by Houston Civic Symphony, conducted by Robert Linder. Other selections are Enisco's Roumanian Rhapsody, Hansen's Romantic Gymphony and Glinka's Russian and Ludmilla, 8:30pm, call 729-3200 for more info.

GREEN APPLE — A club featuring all current popular music, rhythm and blues, and some country will hold a free grand opening Fri and Sat nights, 8pm to 2am. The club will be open Tues, Wed and Thurs for \$1, \$2 on weekends, closed Mon. Specializing in Ripple and Apple wine, it is open to everyone. Wet Light Show. Located at 520 Thorton, off 4700 block of N. Shepherd.

May 11 — THOMAS BORLING and JACK BRIECE, pianists, U of St Thomas, 8pm free.

CELEBRATION OF LIFE, June 21-28, a rock festival on a Mississippi River island, with such groups as IT'S A BEAUTIFUL DAY, SLY AND THE FAMILY STONE, PINK FLOYD, CANNED HEAT, CHAMBERS BROS, B.B. KING, RAVI SHANKAR, AMBOY DUKES, JOHN LEE HOOKER, IKE AND TINA TURNER REVIEW, RICHIE HAVENS, MELANIE and more. Eight day tickets (including ferry boat) will cost \$28; three day tickets \$20. 21- No tickets sold after June 15 (they say now). Workshops in most major handicrafts. Publicity will be starting soon in Houston; no other ticket info available at this time.

Sometime in June — CAT STEVENS

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## THEATER

May 15 and May 22 — TOM SAWYER'S TRIP ABROAD, Alley Theater, 2pm & 4pm, \$1 for young people, \$2 for big people. Box office opens 11-6 Mon.-Fri. at 709 Berry Ave. For more info, call 526-2261.

May 11 — HOW WAS THE TRIP?, Jewish Community Center, 5601 S. Braeswood, 8pm, teens free, adults 75 cents.

May 11 thru June 13 — MOLL FLANDERS a bawdy musical comedy, Windmill Dinner Theatre, tickets available at Foley's. For reservations, call 464-7655.

May 14 thru 29 — Fridays and Saturdays at 8:30pm: Noel Coward's PRIVATE LIVES, Southwest Theater Guild, 2419 Times Blvd., tickets available at door, for more info, call 528-8813.

June 4 thru 26 — Fridays and Saturdays at 8:30pm: world premiere of a new comedy, PLAYBOY?, Southwest Theater Guild, 2419 Times Blvd., for more info, call 528-8813.

May 21-29 — TANGO, Alley Theater. Tickets go on sale May 10. For more info, call 528-5511.

May 20-June 29 — OIAL "M" FOR MURDER, Alley Theater, Call 228-9341 for times and prices.

May 29 — YELLOW BRICK ROAD, Alley Theater's training wing for young people presents this play in which Dorothy, Tin Man, Scarecrow and the Cowardly Lion go to see the Wizard of Oz — and meet Peter Pan, Cinderella, Alice in Wonderland, and many more. 11am, 2pm and 4pm, children \$1, adults \$2. Tickets at Box Office, 709 Berry, from 11am-6pm Mon. thru Fri.

Saturdays in May — ROBINHOOD (unusual story of young man who takes from the rich to give to the poor and is not visited by U.S. Marines — fantasy), Houston Music Theater, 2pm, \$1 and \$2. For ticket info, call 771-3851.

Nunnally Johnson and score by Bob Merrill; THE RESISTABLE RISE OF ARTURO VI by Bertolt Brecht; THE ICE WOLF, a play for children by Johanna Kraus; and RICHARD III by Wm. Shakespeare.

May 27-June 5 — CAN CAN, presented by Frank Young for "Theater Under the Stars," Miller Theater, Hermann Park, 8:30 pm, free.

## ART

thru May 16 — OUR CITY EXHIBITION (the Junior School of Arts show views of Houston), Museum of Fine Arts, Tues. through Sat. 9:30-5:00, Sun. noon to 6, free.

thru June 13 — UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS EXHIBIT, Museum of Fine Arts, Tues. through Sat. 9:30-5:00, Sun. noon-6, free.

Okra Press is an art magazine in which each issue focuses on a different artist or art form. Subscriptions are \$5-\$10. For more info, drop by 306 W. Drew — they need your help.

The Peanut Gallery, an unusual and new gallery, has opened. It is located at 2003 Grant (by Texas Art Supply) and deals primarily with works of art by Houstonians. Stop by and see it.

thru May 30 — SPRING ART FESTIVAL, museum of Fine Arts, Tues thru Sat at 9:30-5, Sun noon-6, free.

May 22-Aug 31 — FOR CHILDREN, an exhibition designed for a child's imagination, combining art of several cultures in various media, Rice University, Art Gallery, Tues-Sat from 10-6, Thurs 10-10, Sun 1-6, closed Mon, free.

May 22-Aug 31 — THE PRINT CLUB, exhibition of prints and old woodcuts, etchings, engravings and posters. Items will be for sale, Rice, Art Gallery, same hours as above, free.

Museum of Fine Arts is now planning its summer classes for a

Museum of Fine Arts is now planning its summer classes for adults and children. Call 526-1361 for a pamphlet with more information.

thru May 22 — ANNUAL STUDENT EXHIBITION, Rice Media Center, Mon-Fri from 9:30-5:30, weekends 1-5, free.

## TV

Channel 11

May 14 — Hemingway's FOR WHOM THE BELL TOLLS, 10:30pm

May 14 — SHERLOCK HOLMES AND TERROR BY NIGHT with Basil Rathbone, 1:05 am

May 15 — THE REVENGE OF FRANKENSTEIN with Peter Cushing and Francis Matthews, 12:55am.

May 16 — DEAD END with Humphrey Bogart, Sylvia Sydney, 10:30pm.

May 20 — HIGH NOON with Gary Cooper, Grace Kelly, 3:30pm.

May 21 — THERE'S NO BUSINESS LIKE SHOW BUSINESS with Marilyn Monroe, Ethel Merman, Kan Oailey, 10:30pm.

May 21 — THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES with Basil Rathbone, 12:50pm.

Channel 13 KTRK

May 14 — LAGOON OF LOST SHIPS, a Jacques Cousteau special, 8pm.

Channel 2 KPRC

May 15 — NBC MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL GAME OF THE WEEK, 1-4pm.

Channel 8

Mon.-Fri. — SESAME STREET, an entertaining educational program for children 7:45am and 4:30pm.

Weds. — THE GREAT AMERICAN DREAM MACHINE, details announced over Channel 8, 7:30pm.

Sun. in May — THE POSSESSED, a play based on Dostoyevsky's monumental novel in pre-revolutionary Russia. 9pm.

## RADIO

Pacifica (KPFT) 90.1 FM

Sunday — STRUNG OUT, Sunday morning coming down to strings doing chamber music, blue grass, flamenco and concertos, 9-11am.

Mon-Fri — LIFE ON EARTH, a conversational newscast with Gary Thiher, Mitch Green and thousands more, 6pm.

Mon-Fri — LIFERAFT, a nightly odyssey for insomniacs, night people and freaked out fantasy fans. Jeff Shero and Gavan Ouffy (& others) provide distraction from metro-life 10 pm.

Tues — ESOTERIX, 3-4pm.

Weds — POP MUSIC FROM INOIA, 7:30pm

Weds — LIFE FOLK SHOW, with Juliette on hand for her nonsensical comments, 8pm.

Thurs — AMERICAN WOMEN, on May 13 will be "I'm Female and I'm Proud" plus "And That's What Little Girls Are Made Of," two tapes by San Francisco Women's Media Project, 2:30pm

Thurs — PUBLIC AFFAIRS, on May 13 is "Pan-Africanism," a brilliantly delivered speech by Stokeley Carmichael at UH, 9pm.

Sat — FREE SCHOOL, discussions about alternatives to public education, 11:30pm

## FILMS

MAD DOGS & ENGLISHMEN, with Joe Cocker and Leon Russell at Memorial Theater, Memorial Shopping Center, 1:10-3:15-5:30-7:40-9:45. Call 465-5258.

THE MEPHISTO WALTZ at Gaylynn Theater, Sharpstown Theater, 1:50-3:45-5:40-7:45-9:40. Call 771-1261.

INVESTIGATION OF A CITIZEN at Bellaire Theater, 4020 Bellaire Blvd. 1:00-3:00-7:05-9:05. Call 664-0182.

THX 1138, a science fiction movie, Windsor Cinerama on Richmond Ave, 5:50-7:30-9:10, 622-2650 for more info (also see review in this issue).

Rice Media Center will resume its usual Friday and Saturday night films in the fall.

## INS & OUTS

Sunshine Collage is planning a Greater Houston Civic Association to generate political pressure for the return of free concerts to Mitby Park and other places. All interested parties contact Switchboard at 526-3666 or John Baines at 921-3431.

Space City! needs people to help with distribution, mailing papers and taking papers to different points. Please call Bobby or Bill at 526-6257 if you are interested in helping in any way.

The Bead Shop on Times in the Village is an interesting shop with a large selection of beads. Drop by sometime.

GLF (Gay Liberation Front) Meetings every Tuesday at the University Center at U of H, 8pm.

Potluck dinners every Monday night for people interested in non-violent direct action. Call the Peace Center, 227-4700.

American Refugee Service — American Deserters Committee have opened a new hostel to aid American refugees. Food and lodging are without charge. 3625 Aylmer St. (The Yellow Door Cafe) in Montreal, Canada, tele. (514) 843-3132. Immigration info can be obtained by writing Montreal Council to Aid War Resisters at P.O. Box 5, Montreal 215, Quebec.

Memorial Park, the largest park in the southwest, has beautiful woods with drives, trails and hiking paths. It's a lot of fun just to walk around and an ideal place for picnics and barbecues, especially on less-crowded weekdays. There are lots of nice things to discover.

May 15 — ALLEGRO BALLET, Jewish Community Center at 5601 S. Braeswood, 8:30pm, call 729-3200 for more info.

May 15 — Armed Forces Day Ft. Hood GIs will march in Killeen

May 15 — Armed Forces Day. Anti-war Ft. Hood GIs will march in Killeen. The march will be followed by a rally with Pete Seeger as the featured guest. Possible Houston caravan will go to Killeen to lend support. Call 227-4000 for more info.

Each spring the Alley Theater holds auditions and interviews people who have expressed a desire to become part of their professional organization. This year they are on May 22. Of the hundreds of candidates, 30 will be selected to compete for different positions. Selection is based on background and availability of individuals. All candidates must be available for full-time employment from Sept. '71 to June '72, must be fully trained in theatrical arts and college training completed by Sept. '71. Call 228-9341 for more information. Requests for applications should be addressed to Robert Leonard, Co. Manager, 1st floor, Alley Theater, 615 Texas Avenue, Houston 77002.

Humus Library — a library and reading map centre in Amsterdam, Holland for everyone who wants to be informed about what's happening among our people all over the planet. The information is sorted into politics, mysticism, music, art, drugs, sex and humanity. They have no money, so if you could send them literature of interest, they would appreciate it. Address: Project Paradiso, Stichting Vrijheids Centra, Amsterdam, Holland.

May 15 and 16 — UH DRAFT COUNSELING TRAINING. No former experience necessary, just willingness to help draft counsel after you have taken the two day course. The course is free, 9am-6pm. For exact location, call the Peace Center (227-4000) or Steve Ezon (225-0368 or 723-9792) 723-9792).

May 16 — Children's ballet with selections from DR. DOLITTLE and NONSENSE ON PARADE. Jewish Community Center at 5601 S. Braeswood, 1:30pm. For more info, call 729-3200.

Let Us Make Peace Together — on the 5th day of each month together let us meditate, pray, smoke, trip, think, live Peace. Give the 5th day of every month for Peace, Joy, Love and Harmony. We believe collective thought-power creates, so let us make peace together. (Received from Amsterdam, Holland)

May 17 — MULTI ETHNIC TASTE FEST, Rio Posada Restaurant, Allen's Landing, 7:30pm, \$2.50.

The Coalition for Better Government is composed of concerned Houstonians who feel that there is a great potential in the city which must be achieved through long-range planning in critical areas of city life, thus eliminating the need for our city administrators to deal constantly with crises as they arise. They want to gain support through educating people to the vital need for planning. If you want to participate, or know more about it, call 529-7102 or write to 905 Richmond, Houston 77006.

May 19 — Judaism As a Dynamic, a lecture by Or. Mordecai M. Kaplan. Or. Kaplan is the author of "A New Approach to the Problem of Judaism, Judaism as a Civilization" and more. 8pm, for more info, call 729-3200.



## MJQ ..

How do you go about criticizing a jazz concert? You know they're great musicians, but how can you review intricate, momentary interpretations of the vibes that were in the air at that particular moment in time, and, like God, mean nothing and everything all at once? And different to every listener?

John Lewis, pianist and musical director of the Modern Jazz Quartet, set the marks for Milt Jackson on vibes, Connie Kay on drums, and Percy Heath on bass. The Houston Symphony's Esteemed Friendly Conductor carried Moloch into Jones with a non-entirety piece for the first number.

Then the Quartet came out and saved the night. With and without the Symph to back 'em up, they sailed through some of their medium-classic numbers. You don't listen to jazz, you inhale it. I sat there, straight, clean, and high all at once. Like I said: everything and nothing.

There was one more straight symphonic piece after intermission. It was really outasite the way the whites would yawn during the jazz and the blacks would yawn during the straight pieces.

MJQ jazz is "cool" jazz out of the early 1950's. The Quartet's historical greatness resides, I think, more in their phenomenal power of breaking down the racial and decadently formal barricades of Amerikan concert music, than in creative genius. And yet, like I said, they are masters of their music, foundation-stones, and no one before or since has sounded or will sound like them. They are inescapable — and happily so. Just because the Progressive Jazz trend is toward frantic escalations of bebop, does not mean that the MJQ did not give the meaning and the beauty of pure jazz to the future of the world. Your honorable literary saxophone



— myself — was suddenly too timid to shake the great men's hands backstage. But four encores had to be shown them that they are loved a little in Hearse-town.

— Jeff Williams

## ... And All That Jazz.

Amerika in 1971 has six great men of literature: William Burroughs, Norman Mailer, Allen Ginsberg, Cousin Tennessee (my grampa came from Tupelo county, too), Dick Cavett and the late David Gardner. Most of these have won fame, bread and a place in the hearts of fellow satanic infidels. Painters since Pollock are too hung up in status, philosophy and unsweated bread to rate, except possibly deKooning. So it is unbelievable how few supposedly knowledgeable Amerikans are familiar with Amerika's, and the world's (since Stravinsky's recent death) greatest living composers, Chuck Berry and Dizzy Gillespie, except as names in the background. ("Gee, gosh! John Hartford!").

I wrote to NET how they should film two (or three or four or twenty-four) hours of Berry ere he splits for Heaven. No reply. Dizzy gets snubbed on tv by Bert Blechrat once in awhile ("Sure, Diz, and now, folks,

we have a message from our sponsor.") Elvis brought us together while most of you readers were still little tykes; Little Richard and Bo Diddley gave him his source. Perhaps the greatest musical genius (in the largest sense) in Amerika's history, Buddy Holly, in un-grooving in the remaindered record stacks, and Dizzy doesn't do much better.

Hippies and the nation will be brought together soon, "if the Devil's willin' and the Bomb don't fall," by modern jazz. Gillespie is not my favorite jazz musician, but, with Charlie Parker, he fathered BeBop, and BeBop said: "Let there be life," and there was the sky.

As you all know, jazz was Black Dixieland until Al Hirt trundled it north in the beertuck. Neither blacks as a group nor whites as a group, however, understand that is, "dig") modern jazz, in its present permutations. Why not? Well, because there is no one to tell them how to dig it. Big Daddy has vanished, Onkle and you're on your own. Terror is struck in the hearts of the populace. How can this hideous misfortune be set aright? Where doth justice reside in this here democracy?

Well, folks I wanta tell ya that you gotta get serious and put down your pipe of groovy for a second and give jazz a chance. You are an uninvited guest. If the sound means something to you, you can stay and hear out the gig. If not, you can wander away, no

sadder and no wiser. It doesn't really make any difference to the musicians, since they do not have much faith in charity nor anything else in Amerika: dope killed too many of them, money killed more. And that was ten years before there were hippies in lovin' duds.

All pop, blues, country, folk and classical music relies for its shared message on a foregone conclusion — a symphonic structure, a ballad line, a blues beat. In contrast, jazz, Amerika's only original contribution to world art is improvised. The listener must, indeed, do just that — listen — to the music, for he has no established structures to soothe his nerves with repetition of an old cliché. So jazz is a closed corporation of anarchists who never heard of politics — you get what you give, probably more, and what you give is a sense of anguish. And you *may* get relief, but jazz is *now* and those cats are uptite too. It's just that they are hipper than James Taylor. (No comment on Dylan.)

Mailer writes that "jazz is orgasm." No. Jazz is only *sexual*, more sexual than any other music, even solid rock. Because in rock you swing the hips and in jazz you refrain from hipping the swingers. True sex is in the heart, and jazz is heart music, as opposed to head music, groin music, or "sold" music. Brother, if you keep on jumping to Family Stone, you gonna be too tired to get tired.

Never mind college jam sessions. Insufficient art in jazz is likely to be inversely proportional to the popularity of the artist with Whitey, and I stay away from Cannonball. But, certainly, disregard college jam sessions and go to the records. Atlantic being the best label. I recommend, in no special order, Mingus, Gillespie, Charles Lloyd, Ornette Coleman (from Fort Worth and the only genius of 1960s jazz), the Modern Jazz Quartet, Cecil Taylor and anyone else you discover in modern jazz. Tough to keep up, takes bread, concentration. You are the only expert. That's what's groovy.

And if you listen awhile, and don't hear much, and want to write in and tell me how you disagree entirely with my thesis... just don't bother, man.

—Jeff Williams

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